AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KURAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Some proposals are under consideration. They include the proposals for enhancement of the ceiling on free water and electricity charges and retiral benefits for the Supreme Court Judges. Further, for the Supreme Court and High Court Judges, the proposals under consideration are exemption from the income-tax of commuted value of one-half of pension and exemption from the income-tax of the value of Leave Travel Concession facility which is twelve in a block of four years for the Judges of Supreme Court and eight for the Judges of High Court.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, there is no such proposasl at present.

USSR offer of News-print to India on barter basis

1249. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the National Herald of the 25th July, 1991, USSR has offered news-print to India on Barter basis; and

(b) if so, how much news-print is likely to be made available from that source and what items indicating the quantum thereof are proposed to be offered against the barter deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Soviets have indicated that approximately 40,000 to 45,000 MTs of newsprint could be made available on barter basis. In return, Soviet Union has expressed interest in purchase of the consumer goods, especially food products, food processing machines screens and roller bearing required for newsprint units etc.

1250. [*Transferred to 12th September, 1991*].

Indian Export consignment being detained in US

1251. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindu of 24th July, 1991, regarding Indian export consignment being detained in U.S.;

(b) if so, what are the items which were declared by U.S. F.D.A. to be injurious for human consumption;

(c) whether the same items manufactured by the same units are finally being marketed in India;

(d) whether Government have ascertained the quality of the said items; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what preventive action has been taken by Government to ban the marketing of these injurious items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) During February and March, 1991, certain consignment shipped from India, mainly food items, detained at various ports in the United States. The main items detained included rice (for insect and rodent filth), frozen shrimp and other fish (for decomposition and infestation with salmonella), brassware and metaware (for lead content), spires for animal and insect filth), essences (for omitting mandatory labelling) and a few cases of psyllium husk (for insect filth). Detention does not mean that they are injurious for human consumption. It means that the consignments are not cleared automatically but only after testing, and if need be, after reconditioning.